**Spurt in the courier services in the private sector**

1080. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is an increase in number of private courier services in the recent past ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the increase is directly attributable to the decline of delivery system of Post and Telegraph Departments ;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to regulate the working of those services so that they cannot act in an arbitrary manner ; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to make good the revenue loss to Government due to operation of these services?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Department is aware of the existence and increase of private couriers. However, the number of couriers operating is not known since the Department of Posts is not responsible for grant of licence for operation of courier services.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No. Sir. The operation of private courier service is apparently the result of new demand for a specialised service from the business and industrial sections. The traditional mail services are not fully equipped to meet these new demands of this market segment. Post's reply to the competition from the couriers is the new service called Speed Post. The annual turnover of this service has increased from Rs. 2·7 crores in 1987 to Rs. 8·4 crores in 1989.

(d) In view of (a) & (c), question does not arise.

(e) The money collected by the private couriers for their service cannot be taken as a loss of revenue to the Department of Posts because the Deptt. of posts is not rendering any service in such cases and no cost is incurred. Hon'ble Members are aware of losses in mail services for which subsidy is being given. Postal tariffs are generally below cost for most servicesi.

**Portable pocket Telephones**

1081. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some portable pocket telephone (wallet size) has been invented in the United States of America ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that such an instrument is very cheap ;

(c) whether Government propose to send some team of engineers to study the mechanism of this instrument Porits indigenous production ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE

(SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) It is reported that a Portable Pocket Telephone is available in U.S.A. Full information regarding cost is not available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal for indigenous production.

**लखनऊ दूरदर्शन केन्द्र के कार्यक्रमों को दूरदर्शन पर दिखाया जाना**

1082. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इलाहाबाद/वाराणसी में लखनऊ दूरदर्शन केन्द्र के कार्यक्रमों को दूरदर्शन पर न दिखाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) क्या सरकार ऐसा प्रबन्ध करने का विचार रखती है कि इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी के लोग लखनऊ दूरदर्शन केन्द्र के कार्यक्रम देख सकें, और यदि हां, तो कब तक और, यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी० उपेन्द्र)** : (क) और (ख) दूरदर्शन ने, दूरसंचार विभाग को इलाहाबाद और वाराणसी में अन्तिम लिंक के साथ, इलाहाबाद के दारागंज, कानपुर और वाराणसी के बीच दोतरफा (टूवे) माईक्रोवेव सर्किट स्थापित करने का पक्का आर्डर दिया है, ताकि इन दोनों स्थानों के उच्च शक्ति ट्रांसमीटरों में दूरदर्शन केन्द्र, लखनऊ के कार्यक्रम रिले किए जा सकें। वर्तमान संकेतों के अनुसार, वाराणसी में इस सुविधा के दिसम्बर, 1990 के अन्त तक और शेष परियोजना के 1991 के दौरान चालू हो जाने की परिकल्पना की गई है।

**Change in Foreign policy**

1083. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV RAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to change its foreign policy ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) what would be the policy of Government towards South Africa and Palestine problem?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is the Government's policy that international pressure including sanctions must continue on the Pretoria regime to commence early negotiations for the dismatlement of Apartheid. We support the emergence of a united democratic and non-racial South Africa.

We recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestine people to self determination and an independent homeland, and continue to support their just struggle. We recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

**Bombay-Bangalore by-Pass near Pune**

1084. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress of the work on the Bombay-Bangalore bye-Pass near Pune ;

(b) what is the reasons for slow progress of the work ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for eight-lane road from Pune to Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Due to constraints of